

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU2004/001727

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int. Cl. ⁷: B65D 30/08, 30/14, 33/18, B31B 1/62, B65B 7/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

DWPI IPC B65D 88/-, 30/-, 75/-, 33/-, B31B, B65B and keywords: SACK, BAG, POUCH, INNER, INTERNAL, OUTER, EXTERNAL, MULTI-WALL, ADHERE, ADHESIVE, HOT-MELT, HEAT, HOT, PRESSURE, SEAL, CLOSE and similar terms

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X Y	AU 46945/97 (729303) B2 (AMCOR PACKAGING (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD) 22 May 1998 See whole document – Cited in the present application See whole document	1, 3-5, 7-11 1, 3-5
X Y	US 5007233 A (BOSE) 16 April 1991 See whole document	1, 3-11 1, 5
X Y	US 6213644 B1 (HENDERSON et al.) 10 April 2001 See whole document See whole document	1, 3-5, 7-11 1, 3-5

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C

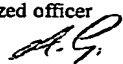
☒ See patent family annex

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"B" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&" document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search
14 January 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report
20 JAN 2005

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU2004/001727

C. (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 869073 B1 (FRANPACK BATES B.V.) 30 May 2001	
	See whole document	1, 3-5, 7-11
Y	See whole document	1, 3-5
	AU 10118/99 (760523) B2 (AMCOR PACKAGING (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD) 24 May 1999	
Y	See whole document – “Easy” open feature and melt adhesive (26) on flap; Document cited in the present application.	1, 3-5
	WO 2001/025102 A1 (INTERNATIONAL PAPER COMPANY) 12 April 2001	
X	See whole document	6
	US 4088264 A (VOGT) 9 May 1978	
X	See whole document	6

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU2004/001727

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a)

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

See Supplemental Sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☒ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU2004/001727

Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of Boxes I to VIII is not sufficient)

Continuation of Box No III:

The international application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention because it does not relate to one invention or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. In coming to this conclusion the International Searching Authority has found that there are different inventions as follows:

1. Claims 1 to 5 are directed to an as-manufactured multi-wall sack. The sack comprises a polymeric inner pouch and a paper-based outer bag. The sack has a top end that (a) is open in the as-manufactured form of the sack so that the sack can be filled with product via the open end and (b) is formed so that it can be closed to form a top block end. The sack comprises pressure adhesive that connects together the inner pouch and the outer bag at the open end of the sack. It is considered that the features of the sack and in particular the use of pressure adhesive that connects together the inner pouch and the outer bag at the top end of the sack comprises a first "special technical feature".
2. Claim 6 is also directed to an as-manufactured multi-wall sack. The sack comprises a polymeric inner pouch and a paper-based outer bag. The sack has a top end that (a) is open in the as-manufactured form of the sack so that the sack can be filled with product via the open end and (b) is formed so that it can be closed to form a top block end. The sack comprises heat-activated adhesive on sections of the outer bag that adhere to other sections of the outer bag as part of the sequence of steps to close the outer bag. It is considered that the features of the sack and in particular the use of heat-activated adhesive on sections of the outer bag that adhere to other sections of the outer bag comprises a second "special technical feature".

Claims 7 to 12 are appended to either independent claim 1 or independent claim 6 and hence can be characterised by the first or second special technical features outlined above.

These groups are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept, that is, they do not have any common inventive features, which define a contribution over the prior art. The common concept linking together these groups of claims is a sack that comprises a polymeric inner pouch and a paper-based outer bag. The sack has a top end that (a) is open in the as-manufactured form of the sack so that the sack can be filled with product via the open end and (b) is formed so that it can be closed to form a top block end. However this concept is not novel in the light of the prior art documents cited in this report such as AU 46945/97 (729303) B2 (AMCOR PACKAGING (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD) which discloses a sack with a closed block top end. Therefore these claims lack unity a posteriori.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/AU2004/001727

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report				Patent Family Member			
AU	46945/97	BR	9712462	EP	0936996	NZ	335517
		US	6536190	WO	9818691		
US	5007233						
US	6213644	CA	2304261				
EP	0869073						
AU	10118/99	NZ	504326	WO	9923000		
WO	2001/025102	AU	77475/00	US	2001000461		
US	4088264	AU	24223/77	AU	28445/77	BE	858344
		BE	858369	CA	1056346	DE	2722590
		DE	2739440	DK	206477	DK	386677
		ES	458180	ES	462221	FR	2363494
		FR	2364889	FR	2381746	GB	1592386
		JP	53031469	JP	53056634	NL	7703368
		NL	7709653	NO	773013	NZ	183617
		NZ	192404	PL	200605	PT	66982
		SE	7709806	YU	208677	ZA	7705285

Due to data integration issues this family listing may not include 10 digit Australian applications filed since May 2001.

END OF ANNEX